

SECRET

11/2/66

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
The Secretary of Defense**

SUBJECT : Pacification Measurement Activity

On 30 November, we cabled Mr. Allen to ask which hamlet he and Colonel Clarke had evaluated, which three sub-sector advisors were briefed on this program, and which three hamlets were these respective sub-sector advisors each evaluating. Mr. Allen has answered our questions and furnished some additional information which will be of interest to you. The text of his reply is as follows:

(1) Colonel Clarke and I evaluated O Tram hamlet, located in the Tieu Can district of Vinh Binh province. The three sub-sector advisors whom we briefed and who are now evaluating hamlets were from Hong Son Special Sector in Quang Nam province, Tuy Phouc district in Binh Dinh province, and Cu Chi district in Hau Nghia province. We do not know which particular hamlets they are evaluating since they are not due to report until 5 December. We will cable the results of their debriefings.

(2) We graded O Tram hamlet an over-all B with D (plus) on Viet Cong military capabilities, C on Viet Cong political capabilities, B on friendly defensive capabilities, A on administration, B on health, education and welfare and B on economic development. The reason for low grade for VC military capabilities factor was continued existence of effective VC district unit. This unit, however, operates in area remote from hamlet with no nearby bases. We are injecting proximity element into criteria to allow for such cases.

SECRET

SECRET

(3) U.S. Mission working level meeting on 26 November was constructive. MACV J-13 tabled alternate proposal which incorporates our concept with substantial changes in mechanical procedures. These changes would reduce administrative burden on sub-sector advisors and integrate handling the task more efficiently with available data processing facilities. Checklist format changed to multiple choice basis to simplify machine processing. This was in concert with our own ideas on refinement.

(4) Major tasks remaining are progressive refinement of indicator list to eliminate ambiguities and inconsistencies; preparation of detailed guidelines for evaluators outlining basic program aims, for each factor, detailing objectives at each grade level, with suggestions how and where evaluator can obtain necessary information; and mechanical problem of tooling up adequate data processing. But there is general agreement system will be ready to go in January as desired with ample interim testing of indicators.

(5) Ambassador Porter is pleased with the project and the cooperative spirit displayed within the Mission. Colonel Clarke and I drafted a letter for Ambassador Porter's signature informing General Thang of concept and fact that testing underway. This is to preclude any blowback through GVN channels which might arise from activities of advisors. Colonel Clarke and I are retaining responsibility for refining process and developing guidelines. We expect to brief the Mission Council on 12 December with virtually completed packet, although some further tests may still be necessary. I am satisfied that final system will meet Washington requirements.

Richard Helms
Director

cc: Under Secretary Katzenbach
Mr. Rumsfeld
General Wheeler
General Greene
Assistant Administrator Post

-2-

SECRET

2ECKEL

O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver, Jr:mee 1/12/66
Distribution

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1@ - Katzenbach, Komer, Wheeler, Greene, Poats

1 - DDCI

1 - DCI/ER/

3 - SAVA ✓

[Faint, mostly illegible teletype text follows, appearing to be a multi-paragraph message.]

2ECKEL